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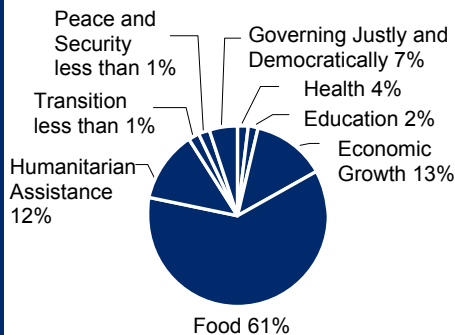
SUDAN

MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2010



USAID Assistance to Sudan FY 2009



Peace and Security	\$6.7
Governing Justly and Democratically	\$72.7
Health	\$47.1
Education	\$25.5
Economic Growth	\$140.8
Food Aid	\$679.7*
Humanitarian Assistance	\$127.6*
Transition	\$4.3
TOTAL	\$1,104.4

Note: Amounts in millions

* Includes eastern Chad



The names and thumbprints of Sudanese who register to vote in the January 9 referendum will be recorded in USAID-provided books and cards, some of which arrived at Juba International Airport on October 25. Photo: Phil Sforcina/IFES

USAID-Funded Research Explores Southern Sudanese Public Opinion Ahead of Self-Determination Referendum

Southern Sudanese show significant support for independence and a strong desire for the January 9 referendum on self-determination to be held on time, according to public opinion research released by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) on October 20.

Funded by USAID, the research—compiled in NDI's report *Southern Sudan at the Crossroads: Citizen Expectations, Aspirations, and Concerns about the Referendum and Beyond*—examines the opinions of 779 participants in 63 focus groups in February and March of this year. The study—the eleventh that NDI has conducted in Sudan since 2004—was conducted in all 10 southern Sudan states, with male and female participants of various ethnic groups, religious affiliation, age, and education level.

According to NDI, the qualitative research found that “Southern Sudanese participants continue to express an extremely strong yearning for separation from the north. Even the word ‘unity’ has negative associations for them.” Southern Sudanese participants have consistently expressed this opinion since NDI began its public opinion research in Sudan in 2004, NDI noted.



Phil Sforcina, logistics and procurement advisor with USAID referendum partner IFES (second from left), and USAID/Sudan Democracy and Governance Team Leader KC Choe (right) hand over USAID-procured voter registration books and cards for the southern Sudan self-determination referendum to Dr. Achier Deng Akol of the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau (SSRB), left, and SSRB staff member Yar Bak (second from right). Photo: Jesse Brown/USAID

The research also found that “many participants cannot conceive of a single credible reason for a delay” in holding the referendum as scheduled and “most would not accept” a delay announced by the Government of National Unity (GNU).

Regarding the issue of southerners living in northern Sudan, and northerners living in southern Sudan, “Southern Sudanese participants support the right of southerners in the North to vote in the referendum but want them to return ‘home’ to cast their ballots,” the report says. In addition, “participants express concern about the fate of southerners living in the North after separation but are generally accepting of northerners continuing to live in the South, unless southerners are mistreated.”

The study also found that “participants take an extremely hard line against the sharing of oil revenue with the North if the referendum vote is for independence,” and that the southerners have very high expectations regarding an independent southern Sudan’s economic future. “They feel that the South’s controlling its own resources will fuel a boom in development, and many believe that its economy will be on par with that of neighbors like Kenya and Uganda in 10 years,” the report says.

Regarding tribal tensions in the South, the research found that “most participants believe that a common spirit will unite southerners in an independent

Sudan, in part because they feel the quality of life will improve, the rule of law will be more robust, and the North will no longer foment tribal conflict.” Some participants indicated that “they see the potential for peaceful relations among tribes, but that the state of tribal relations will ultimately depend on the government’s ability to complete disarmament and eliminate tribalism.”

Based on the research findings, NDI issued a number of recommendations to the GNU and Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), including:

- Place an emphasis on educating the public about rules and regulations—especially voter eligibility—to clarify who will be voting and where to prevent potential misunderstandings.
- If a delay is necessary, undertake a southern Sudan-wide discussion, with GOSS officials prominently featured, about the reasons for the delay, the proposed new timeline and the re-tained guarantee of self-determination.
- Educate southern Sudanese about the necessity of post-referendum compromises to maintain peace and to ensure a politically and economically viable South.
- The GOSS must convince southern Sudanese citizens that from both an economic and security perspective, moving oil through the North is necessary at least in the short-term.
- Discuss the problem of tribalism in government openly with the public and communicate plans for addressing it.

The study can be found at <http://www.ndi.org>.♦

Rehabilitated Akobo County Headquarters an Anchor for Model Community Security Initiative

Last month, local youth in Akobo, a town in Sudan’s Jonglei state bordering the westernmost tip of Ethiopia, finished rehabilitating Akobo County’s colonial-era headquarters building, which had deteriorated into a rusted iron skeleton.

Their efforts to revitalize the community are part of “the Akobo Model,” a USAID initiative to promote stability along the conflict-ridden Sobat River corridor, in part by providing unemployed youth with



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The rehabilitated Akobo County Headquarters building in Jonglei state, at the official opening on October 2. Seated in the front row are UN Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for southern Sudan Lise Grande (in red), U.S. Consul General in Juba Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley (center), and Jonglei State Deputy Governor Hussein Mar (left). USAID/Sudan Deputy Mission Director Susan Fine also participated. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

income-generating skills and promoting links across tribes that have previously engaged in conflict through cattle raiding and disputes over natural resources.

With USAID support, the youth were trained in compressed soil block making, a skill that provides blocks for building construction, and then employed to rehabilitate the county headquarters and build a new Traditional Authorities Center—which provides local chiefs administrative offices, a meeting hall, and space to hear customary law cases—also in Akobo.

These projects gave the youth not only work, wages, and skills, but also instilled a sense of pride and ownership in their community.

At a ceremony launching the refurbished headquarters on October 2, Akobo County Commissioner Goi Jooyul Yol said, “It is the first governmental post-colonial concrete building ever constructed in this region. It is not only a sign of stability, but a sign of hope for many youth who used their energy to mold blocks rather than engaging in cattle rustling.”

“I am so happy to be working and contributing something to my community that will last a long

time,” said one of the youth who worked on the project. “We are really digging deep into our soil and building peace in Akobo now.”

In another activity designed to improve the skills and livelihood options for unemployed youth, USAID has provided youth groups with two boats for trade and a river transport business.

In addition to these activities focused on youth, USAID’s stabilization initiative in Akobo includes enhancing state authority and expanding access to remote areas where conflict can erupt. “Early warning” posts have been supplied with communications and transportation equipment to enable state authorities to respond quickly to reports of violence and to reach insecure areas. Local leaders have been provided with logistical support to conduct a peaceful civilian disarmament that netted almost 500 weapons.

The Akobo Model has helped improve security significantly since 2009, when more than 900 people were killed in Akobo County and some 20,000 displaced due to ethnic violence.

The U.S. Consul General in Juba, Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley, told the community gathered for the opening ceremony of the refurbished county headquarters building, “We are here to celebrate your efforts and to appreciate how much positive change can happen in so short a period of time.” ♦



Jonglei State Deputy Governor Hussein Mar (left), Akobo County Commissioner Goi Jooyul Yol (center), and U.S. Consul General in Juba Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley (right) celebrate the official opening of the newly rehabilitated Akobo County headquarters on October 2. Photo: Pete Muller/AECOM International Sudan



Empowering the Abyei Area Administration to Enhance Stability and Prevent Conflict



USAID funded construction of the Abyei Area Complex to provide local government authorities in this volatile area on Sudan's north-south border zone with facilities to plan and manage services for the area's residents. The town of Abyei was destroyed during conflict that erupted in 2008. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

On September 5, USAID officially handed over to local authorities in Abyei the Abyei Area Administration Complex, a campus of office and residence buildings designed to support the nascent Abyei Area Administration as it attempts to serve the residents of this strategically important area on Sudan's contentious North-South border.

Competing interests and goals converge and often clash in Abyei, which was a specific area of negotiation in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, culminating in a protocol that provides residents of Abyei with a referendum to decide whether they will remain part of northern Sudan or join southern Sudan.

In May 2008, fighting in Abyei between Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army left the town devastated, killed at least 90 people, and forced the displacement of a majority of the population. Responding to the destabilizing effect of the violence on the larger peace process, the Government of National Unity and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) agreed to a roadmap—the Abyei Roadmap—to rebuild Abyei under the leadership of a newly appointed Abyei Area Administration. Yet the near-total destruction

of Abyei during the violence and lack of infrastructure severely limited what the Administration could accomplish or even set as a goal.

Recognizing the constraints facing the new Administration and the urgent need for it to become operational, USAID worked with local officials to capture their vision for how it could best serve its citizens. Support began with a topographical study of the town to provide a basis for planning, and two urban planning experts were dispatched to provide technical assistance to the Administration.

The process of identifying needs improved the Administration's capacity to grapple with issues of security, infrastructure, education, and the influx of returning displaced residents. USAID also provided equipment and other necessary items to house the Administration temporarily, while funding construction of the Administrative Complex, which includes office space, residences for top administration officials, a legislative council hall, a guesthouse for official visitors, and supporting facilities.

While the CPA parties—the Government of Sudan and the SPLM—continue to negotiate details of the Abyei referendum, including who is eligible to vote, the effectiveness of the Abyei Area Administration is ever more important for stability in the region. By providing the Administration with space to do its work and tools to help implement the Abyei Roadmap, USAID is proactively working to prevent violence and support successful implementation of the CPA. ♦



Staff of the Abyei Area Administration Secretariat inspected the Administration complex buildings in September. Photo: AECOM International Sudan



Southern Sudan Business Climate to be Assessed in USAID-Funded World Bank Report

USAID, the World Bank, and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Ministry of Investment on September 28 launched a research process that will culminate in a landmark report, *Doing Business in Southern Sudan 2011*. The report will provide a baseline of data on business regulations and the ease of doing business in southern Sudan.

Funded by USAID, the report will be one of a series of “Doing Business” publications the World Bank has produced to measure business regulations and their enforcement within a particular country or region.

Since 2005, these reports have compiled benchmark data for more than 300 locations in 41 countries.

Doing Business in Southern Sudan will focus on Juba, the fourth city to be profiled in the series. Previous reports studied Zanzibar, Tanzania; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Veneto, Italy.

The report will cover 10 areas of business regulation:

- Starting a business
- Dealing with construction permits
- Registering property
- Getting credit
- Employing workers
- Trading across borders
- Paying taxes
- Enforcing contracts
- Protecting investors
- Closing a business

Brice Richard of the World Bank Group’s International Finance Corporation, which is directing the study, said the assessment will take six months to complete, and is expected to be published in April 2011.

USAID/Sudan Mission Director William Hammink said the report “will send a strong signal to the international investment world that GOSS recognizes the importance of foreign investment,”

which “could help to attract foreign investment into the economy of southern Sudan.”

Catherine Masinde, a senior private sector development specialist and program manager in Sudan and Nigeria for the World Bank Group, said that the partners involved had been working with the GOSS Ministry of Commerce since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, when they identified several areas of focus, including strengthening the ministry and establishing a legal framework for investment and institutions to support investors.

Five years later, tangible progress has been made, she said. For example, eight laws have been enacted that support investment, up from one in 2006, and 10,000 businesses have been registered. Masinde noted that several working groups now exist between the public and private sectors to engage with the GOSS. She added that the report will include clear benchmarks to show the progress and status of the investment environment in the region.

Richard emphasized the importance of establishing a “clear, transparent, tax system”—a point that Minister of Investment General Oyay Deng Ajak also stressed. Minister Ajak and Professor George Bureng of southern Sudan both strongly pressed for finalization of a comprehensive land policy for southern Sudan.



Panelists at the launch of the *Doing Business in Southern Sudan* study in Juba, September 28, included USAID/Sudan Mission Director Bill Hammink (second from left) and Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Investment General Oyay Deng Ajak (center). Photo: Jesse Brown/USAID



USAID is providing technical assistance to the GOSS in developing a draft land policy, after spending a year soliciting input from communities across southern Sudan about what should be included in the policy. USAID is also helping the GOSS to establish a transparent tax code, and investing in public infrastructure, including electricity, bridges and roads, including the crucial Juba-Nimule road, which connects southern Sudan to Uganda.

However, southern Sudan faces major challenges to investment, Hammink acknowledged, including: poor roads, which increase transport costs, adversely affecting the conduct of business; lack of efficient power supply, which limits the establishment of industries; multiple tax collection systems, which increase the cost and the uncertainty of doing business; limited credit facilities; uncertainty regarding currency and profit repatriation; lack of information needed to provide wider understanding of the business environment within and outside of southern Sudan; a shortage of entrepreneurial skills; and continued threats to security.

With the support of donors, the GOSS is striving to create an environment that supports the private sector; develop programs that complement and boost the private sector, leading to more business opportunities and job creation; help the public and private sectors interact more easily, to facilitate business; address corruption by detecting and limiting opportunities for corruption; and improve public infrastructure, especially the road network.

“Southern Sudan is at the beginning of a new era,” Minister Ajak said, noting the “need to create business and generate wealth.” ♦

Peace Meeting in Upper Nile State Helps Tribes Reach Solutions to Reduce Conflict

To help reduce conflict along the remote and volatile Sobat River corridor along southern Sudan’s eastern border, USAID in July supported a grassroots dialogue among local Jikany Nuer and Lou Nuer leaders in the disputed area of Wanding, Upper Nile state.

Sitting under a large grass-thatched canopy, nearly 100 chiefs, local government officials, youth, and women gathered for two days to discuss ways to resolve a two-decade-long conflict over control of



Participants at the Wanding Peace Meeting in Upper Nile State in July. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

the area’s fertile fishing waters and abundant grazing grounds.

With USAID planning and logistical support, the Wanding Peace Meeting brought residents together to find practical solutions to grievances that threaten to undermine southern Sudan’s precarious peace. Three solutions were reached:

- Authorities from Akobo County, Jonglei state, agreed to hand over administrative control of Wanding Payam (a payam is a sub-district) to Nasir County in Upper Nile.
- Both communities agreed that displaced civilians (mostly Jikany) should be able to return home.
- Lou families will be welcome to remain in the area after authority shifts to Nasir.

Each of these solutions addressed a core concern of the communities, enabling them to pledge to work together toward peaceful coexistence.

“We have had many meetings, and in all of these meetings we always asked for the Lou to leave,” said one prominent Jikany leader.

“That was wrong on our part, and that is why these meetings have failed. Now that we have asked the Lou to stay with us [as a result of the Lou agreeing to the transfer of authority for Wanding payam], that should be the end. That is what they want, and that is the way it used to be.”



The conflict in Wanding is emblematic of resource-based, small-arms fueled, inter-communal violence that remains pervasive in southern Sudan. Seasonal access to the area is particularly important for the Lou Nuer of Akobo, who move north to the Sobat River in search of water for their cows and distance from migrations of the Murle tribe during the dry season. Continued insecurity among the Lou and Jikany Nuer has disrupted trade along the Sobat River corridor, destabilized the Ethiopia-Sudan border, displaced thousands of civilians, and complicated humanitarian relief efforts.

Finding innovative ways to address one community's needs without threatening others is critical as these communities attempt to live peaceably together. USAID's support to the Wanding Peace Meeting is part of a broader effort in the Sobat River Corridor to find ways to address and defuse the underlying triggers of conflict at the local level. ♦

Vocational Training in Southern Kordofan Helps Ex-Combatants and Women Battle Poverty

In early September, a group of 45 ex-combatants and unemployed youth graduated from a three-month, USAID-supported vocational training program in Julud, Southern Kordofan. The Julud Vocational Training Program is providing invaluable skills to populations at risk of violence in an effort to stem the cycle of poverty and conflict that has plagued the area.

Julud—located in Sudan's volatile north-south border zone that was devastated during the two-decade civil war that ended with the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement—is one of the areas in Southern Kordofan most at risk of violence.

USAID provided material and financial assistance for the training, while the community provided bricks and local construction materials. In an effort to help build positive relationships, trainees were chosen from the surrounding villages, including some from communities that had previously experienced conflict with each other.

Students were trained in blacksmithing, construction, welding, carpentry, or sewing, according to their preference. The trainees produced goods such as



Through a USAID initiative to combat poverty along Sudan's volatile north-south border zone, vocational trainees in Julud, Southern Kordofan, learn construction skills. Photo: AECOM International Sudan

school uniforms and desks. Those learning construction improved the building where the training was held.

During the training, key signs of success emerged, including a group of women joining the training when they saw fellow villagers learning valuable skills, and an international nongovernmental organization contracting with the training center to procure 40 desks for a school it is supporting in the area. In addition, some of the goods produced were sold at the local market at competitive prices. ♦

Wau Water Officials Learn from Ugandan Counterparts

Three senior officials from the Wau Urban Water Corporation (WUWC), located in the southern Sudan state of Western Bahr el Ghazal, participated in a study tour in Uganda August 16-19 to identify effective water management approaches that can be replicated in Wau.

Organized with the support of USAID's Sudan Infrastructure Services Project in cooperation with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) of Uganda and the WUWC, the tour provided instruction and shared lessons learned about water revitalization management systems in Uganda.



Senior officials from the Wau Urban Water Corporation visit a National Water Corporation of Uganda treatment plant as part of a USAID-sponsored study tour. Photo: Richard Ruati/Louis Berger Group

The study tour included visits to water treatment plants and distribution networks and reservoirs in Kampala and Entebbe, as well as sessions focused

on mapping and geographic information systems, finance, maintenance, water quality monitoring, and customer service.

While Uganda's water service conditions are significantly different from those of southern Sudan, NWSC's experience in technical operation, skills development, cost control, and quality assurance offered useful insights to the WUWC officials, helping them to address the challenges they face in setting up a strategic direction for their own utility management.

"We have learned a lot from [our] brothers in neighboring Uganda," said WUWC Area Manager Joseph Akol.

"One thing that has thrilled me is how the National Water and Sewerage Corporation of Uganda motivates their employees," he said.

"We have taken into account knowledge to incorporate into our planning, as we want our corporation to deliver in a sound path."♦

Community Action Groups Provide Inroads to Remote Communities



Communities like Mayen-Loc in Tonj North County, in southern Sudan's Warrap state, are remote and widespread, with pastoralist families living far apart and often moving from place to place. In this environment, it is often difficult to organize services for community members.

To address this challenge, USAID's Building Responsibility for the Delivery of Government Services (BRIDGE) works with communities to form self-sustaining Community Action Groups (CAGs) across three states of southern Sudan—Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Unity. CAGs are comprised of community representatives and elected leaders who work together to enhance community participation in development projects.

BRIDGE works with CAGs to help them link to services and serve as an intermediary between communities and their local government officials. In Mayen-Loc, 148 women, men, and youth worked with BRIDGE to form their CAG. In June, community members participated in a planning process to identify needs and develop community action plans.

To maximize impact, BRIDGE is helping other organizations to utilize the CAG network and reach remote communities. BRIDGE coordinated with The Carter Center, accompanying a team to Mayen Loc in June during the CAG formation process, which provided an opportunity to distribute water filters and mosquito nets that will help combat guinea worm and malaria. Through this joint effort, The Carter Center was able to reach a group of youth and mobile cattle herders who had been difficult to locate, enabling them to receive life-saving resources.